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student. Whether such a book is valuable to the student in a class is not so certain, but as Professor Tolman says, after he has suggested various methods of uses, he does not care how it is used so long as it is used in an interesting and practical way.

The Ontario High School English Grammar. By O. J. Stevenson. Toronto: Canada Publishing Co., 1911. Pp. vi+276. \$0.45.

The *Ontario High School English Grammar* is an unusual grammar in several particulars. Its most notable quality is its logical construction. The method of presentation is synthetic; it begins with words and proceeds to words in combination, their relations to each other and their inflections. Although this is not the natural order for a student who is using the language as his own, it probably insures greater ease of comprehension. The most praiseworthy thing about the book is the fact that it accepts the English language as it is used today in speaking and writing, and not as it would be if it conformed to certain established traditions of grammar, and it systematizes this usage in the most sensible way. The grammar of other languages and the historical antecedents of present-day English are referred to only when they furnish the logical explanation of a form that would otherwise appear quite erratic. These explanations, when they are given, are quite full and accurate. The writers are more nearly unprejudiced than are the writers of any other grammar that the writer of this review is familiar with.

The only place in the book where the facts of the language are not reported truly is in the chapter that deals with the subjunctive. Here the conventional treatment of the subject has had its influence. The grammar has yet to be written that gives an unprejudiced account of the subjunctive as it appears in the best written production of the day. Another fault of the book is the illogicality of its definitions. Many of those given do not cover the ground, and some fail to distinguish contrasted forms. This is not, however, a serious fault, as the examples are so carefully chosen that they make the points clear.

The grammar is of unusual merit. It is a distinct improvement over the ordinary high-school textbook.

FRANK G. TOMPKINS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Nature Sketches in Temperate America. By JOSEPH LANE HANCOCK. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1911. Pp. xviii+451. With 12 colored plates and 215 figures.

It is refreshing to find a piece of work so full of simply stated first-hand observations as is this book. Dr. Hancock for a long time has been a continuous and careful field-worker, and his liking for the out-of-doors, his keenness of observation, and his enthusiasm in seeking the truth about living things of all kinds have stimulated those who have had the privilege of going afield with him. The infectious enthusiasm of the author is constant throughout his book and should serve to give a genuine scientific interest in nature to many readers. The author believes that "it may be more agreeable to present the subject sometimes from the artistic or aesthetic point of view," and, while the truth of nature should not be sacrificed, it should be so presented "that it may reach a wider circle, thereby serving a greater usefulness." The style of the